

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 25-40 are pending in the application, and that Claims 25-40 are rejected. By this amendment, Claims 25, 28, 35, 37 and 37 have been amended and Claims 31 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 25-30 and 33-40 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 25-30 and 33-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,344,162 to Miyajima.

Claim 25, as amended, recites that a first set of gates in the leadframe separately connect corresponding cavities along the same column and a second set of gates separately connect corresponding cavities along the same row. In contrast, Miyajima discloses a first embodiment wherein the runner paths 30 in the lower mold dies 21 only separately connects corresponding cavities 26a in the longitudinal direction (figures 1-4; col. 4, line 5 through col. 6, line 13). In a second embodiment, Miyajima discloses that a first set of runners 29a separately connect corresponding cavities 26a along the columns and a second set of runners 29 each jointly connect a given cavity 26a to an adjacent cavities 26a 1) along the same row, 2) along the same column and 3) in a different row and column (figs 22-23; col. 15, lines 45-67).

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Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claim 25 is patentable over Miyajima. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the anticipation rejection of Claim 25 be withdrawn and that Claim 25 be allowed.

Claims 26 and 27 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claim 25, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of Claims 26 and 27 be withdrawn and that Claims 26 and 27 be allowed.

Claim 28, as amended, recites that a first set of gates in the leadframe separately connect corresponding cavities along the same column and a second set of gates separately connect corresponding cavities along the same row. In contrast, Miyajima discloses a first embodiment wherein the runner paths 30 in the lower mold dies 21 only separately connects corresponding cavities 26a in the longitudinal direction (figures 1-4; col. 4, line 5 through col. 6, line 13). In a second embodiment, Miyajima discloses that a first set of runners 29a separately connect corresponding cavities 26a along the columns and a second set of runners 29 each jointly connect a given cavity 26a to an adjacent cavities 26a 1) along the same row, 2) along the same column and 3) in a different row and column (figs 22-23; col. 15, lines 45-67).

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claim 28 is patentable over Miyajima. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the anticipation rejection of Claim 28 be withdrawn and that Claim 28 be allowed.

Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claim 28, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

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requests that the anticipation rejection of Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34 be withdrawn and that Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34 be allowed.

Claim 35, as amended, recites that a first set of gates in the leadframe separately connect corresponding cavities along the same column and a second set of gate separately connect corresponding cavities along the same row. In contrast, Miyajima discloses a first embodiment wherein the runner paths 30 in the lower mold dies 21 only separately connects corresponding cavities 26a in the longitudinal direction (figures 1-4; col. 4, line 5 through col. 6, line 13). In a second embodiment, Miyajima discloses that a first set of runners 29a separately connect corresponding cavities 26a along the columns and a second set of runners 29 each jointly connect a given cavity 26a to an adjacent cavities 26a 1) along the same row, 2) along the same column and 3) in a different row and column (figs 22-23; col. 15, lines 45-67).

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claim 35 is patentable over Miyajima. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the anticipation rejection of Claim 35 be withdrawn and that Claim 35 be allowed.

Claims 36-40 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claim 35, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of Claims 36-40 be withdrawn and that Claims 36-40 be allowed.

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Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 504160. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 504160.

Respectfully submitted,
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